



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
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Contact: David Lucas
(803) 734-9917
dlucas@aging.sc.gov

**\$10,000 grant from Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Will Support
In-home Alzheimer's Respite Care in Aiken County**

- **Who:** The Aiken Area Council on Aging, Inc., Executive Director, Scott K. Murphy. Mr. Murphy can be contacted at (803) 648-5447.
- **What:** This local organization that serves senior citizens and their families in the Aiken community was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to support their In-home Respite Care program.
- **When:** On June 28, Lt. Governor André Bauer will personally present the grant award to Council and program leaders. Photographs of the award presentation will be available for news organizations unable to attend.
- **Where:** The grant awards ceremony will take place at the Statehouse in Columbia. Lt. Governor Bauer's Office is on the first floor.

Background:

The Aiken Area Council on Aging, Inc. is the designated focal point in Aiken County for information, referrals, and counseling for older adults and their families. The agency first began serving individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related illnesses in 1983. In 2002, based on increased demand for the service in the Aiken community, the agency began offering in-home respite care. Now, with help from a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC), expansion of this program to serve more individuals and their caregivers will be possible.

It is estimated that 10% of the general population over age 65, and up to 50% over the age of 85 suffer from Alzheimer's disease. That translates into over 2,200 people in Aiken County. Due to Aiken County's growing popularity as a retirement community, those numbers are expected to grow in the coming years. Currently, access to in-home respite care is limited, and not always available to families with limited financial resources.

In-home respite programs provide caregivers with temporary relief from their care giving responsibilities and give them time to take care of personal business, go out with friends, participate in wellness activities, or just go for a walk. Reducing caregiver stress improves the quality of life for both the caregiver and the person being cared for. The Council program is supported by numerous other agencies in the Aiken area, including the United Way of Aiken County, and the Lower Savannah Council on Governments.

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Legislation directs the center to:

- Initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services
- Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning and quality assurance
- Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services
- Serve as a resource for education, research and training and provide information and referral services
- Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers
- Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to state policymakers
- Submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly

A detailed demographic look at South Carolina and Aiken County's senior population based on the 2000 federal census can be found at www.scmatureadults.org. The report Mature Adults in South Carolina is a publication of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.